CLAIMS

What is claimed is new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims:

1. An audio/video control device comprising:

a) a base unit including:

i) a housing having a recess extending therein;

ii) a first processor for controlling operation of said base unit;

iii) a first audio/video storage and reproduction device positioned within said housing and controlled by said processor to one of store and reproduce at least one of audio and video signals thereon;

iv) first means for connection with an external source of audio and video signals for at least one of reproduction and storage by said base unit; and

v) means connected to said first processor for receiving audible control signals in response to which said first processor controls operation of said device; and

b) a portable unit releasably connected to said base unit, said portable unit being operable jointly and separably within said recess in said housing of said base unit, said portable unit including:

i) a second processor;

ii) means for selectively connecting said second processor to said first processor;

iii) a touch screen display connected to said second processor for displaying a menu of operation selections and providing manual control signals to said second processor for controlling operation of said device upon contact by a user of one of said operation selections in said displayed menu;

iv) means for reproducing and storing audio and video signals on a storage medium;

v) a second audio/video storage and reproduction device positioned within said housing and controlled by said processor; and

vi) second means for connection with an external source of audio and video signals for reproduction and storage by said base unit, wherein a user is able to operate said base unit and said portable unit either jointly or separably through at least one of audible and manual control signals.

2. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said base unit further includes means for connecting said first processor with said second processor positioned within said recess.

3. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 2, wherein said base unit further includes a speaker connected to said first processor for audibly providing operating instructions to a user for controlling operation of said device.

4. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first audio/video storage and reproduction device is a read/write CD ROM drive.

5. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first audio/video storage and reproduction device is a memory card port for receiving a memory card, said memory card including means for storing audio and video data thereon and a rechargeable battery, wherein said memory card is connected to said first microprocessor upon insertion into said memory port.

6. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said second audio/video storage and reproduction device is a memory card port for receiving a memory card, said memory card including means for storing audio and video data thereon and a rechargeable battery, wherein said memory card is connected to said first microprocessor upon insertion into said memory port.

7. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 3, wherein said base unit further includes a memory card port for receiving a memory card, said memory card including means for storing audio and video data thereon and a rechargeable battery, wherein said memory card is connected to said first microprocessor upon insertion into said memory port.

8. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first means for connection with an external source of audio and video signals is one of a cable connection port, a telephone line connection port or an audio/video connector.

9. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 8, wherein said cable connection port provides a direct connection of said first processor to a global communications network.

10. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said first processor displays video reproduced from one of said first audio/video storage and reproduction device and said means for connection with an external source of audio and video signals on said touch screen display when said portable device is positioned in said recess.

11. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said portable unit further includes control keys for manually providing control signals to said second processor.

12. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said second means for connection with an external source of audio and video signals is a cellular transmitter/receiver.

13. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 17, wherein said base unit further includes a second memory card port for receiving a memory card, said memory card including means for storing audio and video data thereon and a rechargeable battery, wherein said memory card is connected to said first microprocessor upon insertion into said memory port.

14. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said means for receiving audible control signals is a microphone.

15. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said portable unit further includes a headphone jack connected to said second processor for audibilizing reproduced audio signals.

16. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 1, wherein said portable unit further includes a speaker connected to said second processor for audibilizing reproduced audio signals.

17. The audio/video control device as recited in Claim 15, wherein said portable unit further includes a speaker connected to said second processor for audibilizing reproduced audio signals.

18. A system for providing audio and/or video signals to a remote user, said system comprising:

a) a central station including:

i) a data base for storing acceptable access numbers;

ii) a first processor connected to said data base;

iii) a first receiver; and

iii) a first transmitter for transmitting audio and/or video signals; and

b) an audio/video control device located remotely from said central station, said audio/video control device including:

i) a memory for storing an access number;

ii) a second transmitter for transmitting the access number to said central unit;

iii) a second receiver for receiving audio and/or video signals from said central unit;

iv) a second processor;

v) control keys for generating control signals and controlling said processor to activate said transmitter to transmit said access number and control signals to said central station;

vi) a speaker for reproducing audio signals received from said central station; and

vii) a display for reproducing video signals received from said central station, wherein when a user desires to listen to audio signals and/or view video signals transmitted by said central unit, the user activates said control keys causing said second transmitter to transmit said access number to said central station whereupon said first processor checks the access number against said data base of acceptable access numbers and upon determining said access number is acceptable, said first transmitter transmits audio and/or video signals to said audio/video control device for reproduction thereby.

19. The system as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a plurality of audio/video control devices, each of said audio/video control devices having a unique access number stored in said memory and being authorized to receive audio and/or video signals from said central station.

20. The system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said central station is able to transmit any of a selection of audio and video signals to said audio/video control device and said control keys each generate a respective control signal for transmission to said central station upon activation, wherein each control signal is indicative of a respective selection of audio and video signals to be transmitted by said central station.

21. The system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said transmitter within said audio/video control device is a cellular transmitter.

22. The system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said control keys include an alphanumeric keypad for dialing an access telephone number for said central station to establish communication therewith.

23. The system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said audio/video control device further includes a microphone for receiving audible control commands from the user and provides the audible control commands to said second processor for analysis and transmission to said central station.

24. The system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said central station transmits a signal indicative of transmission of an unauthorized access number by said audio/video control unit upon determining the access number is not acceptable.

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